(e) whether all these reports would be made available for public at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government keeps on reviewing the use/licensing/import of pesticides reported to be acutely hazardous, from time to time through Central Insecticides Board/Registration Committee set up under the Insecticides Act, 1968 as well as through High Level Expert Committees.

(c) and (d) The Government had constituted an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. S. N. Banerjee in 1984 to review the use in India of Pesticides which are banned/restricted in other countries. This Committee was re-constituted in 1986, 1987 & 1989. The committee was given the task to review 31 pesticides, the reports on which have since been received by the Government. The Government have already implemented the recommendation of the Committee on 12 pesticides and recommendations on remaining 19 are under examination.

(e) It has been decided to release to public all the reports of Banerjee Committee on which decision has already been taken by the Government.

Foreign visits by the officers of the Ministry of Steel

910. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the officers of the Ministry of Steel who visited foreign countries during the last three years alongwith the expenditure incurred and the duration of each of the visits;

(b) what was the purpose of each of the visits; and

(c) whether the expenditure on these visits was incurred either by the Ministry or its undertakings or attached offices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEB): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Improvement in the quality of food supplied in Long distance trains

911. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps are being taken to improve the quality of food supplied in long distance trains; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) Constant efforts are made by Railways to improve the quality of food and service. Steps taken/proposed to be taken include, introduction of casserole service, modernisation of base kitchens, training to catering staff, introduction of pantry car service, regular/surprise inspections etc.

Doubling of B.G. line between Erakulam and Trivandrum

912. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to double the broad gauge line between Ernakulam and Trivandrum; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On Ernakulam-Trivandrum section of Southern Railway, an alternative BG line has been proposed for contruction between Ernakulam-Kayankulam, of this Ernakulam-Alleppey (57 kms.) has al-

ready been commissioned on 15.10.1989 and Alleppey-Kayankulam section is targetted for opening in 1991-92. When completed, it will provide two single lines between Ernakulam and Kayankulam-one via Alleppey and the other via Kottayam — the existing route. Doubling between Kayankulam and Quilon (41 km) was approved in the Budget for 1989-90 and the work has already been started. Doubling between Quilon-Trivandrum (65 kms.) has been included in the Budget for 1990-91. Completion of doubling on Kayankulam-Quilon-Trivandrum will depend upon the availability of resources in the coming years.

Procurement of wheat

913. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Food Corporation of India has achieved this year's (1991-92) target of procurement of wheat;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have sufficient stock of wheat for 1991-92 to meet the demand/supply of wheat in the country; and

(d) what are the last year 1990-91 figure of procurement/stock and supply of wheat State-wise as compared to the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) and (b) No target is fixed, as wheat is procured against voluntary offers by farmers under Government's price support operations. During the current rabi marketing season 1991-92, as on 19.7.91, 77.46 lakh tonnes of wheat has been procured by the Food Corporation of India in collaboration with the States procuring agencies.

(c) As on 1.7.91, the total availability of wheat stock works out to 10.79 million tonnes, which is considered sufficient to meet the requirements of PDS and other Welfare Schemes for the period from July, 1991 to March, 1992.

(d) Two statements showing State-wise procurement of wheat made in the Rabi marketing season 1990-91 and supplies/offtake of wheat from central pool 1990-91 (April-March) are attached. [*See* Appendix 159, Annexure No. 28] The stocks of wheat in the Central pool on 1.4.90 and 31.3.1991 were 3.42 & 5.65 million tonnes respectively.

Draft National policy on Agriculture

914. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Draft National policy on Agriculture has been formulated and considered by Government;

(b) whether the Draft policy has been circulated to the State Governments and the Agricultural Universities to elicit their views;

(c) if so, the response of the State Governments/Universities thereto;

(d) by when, the policy is likely to be placed before both Houses of Parliament; and

(e) when a similar policy had last been framed and what were its impacts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (d) A draft of an Agricultural policy Resolution formulated in March, 1991 had been circulated to the State Governments and U.Ts and Agricultural Universities for eliciting their comments. Five States/U.Ts and 7 Agricultural Universities have sent their comments. After the receipt of comments from the State Governments further action will be taken.

(e) No comprehensive Agricultural policy Resolution has been placed before the Parliament in the recent past.